

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 111705Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6186

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3866

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS

1. DURING COURTESY VISIT AUGUST 8, I ELICITED SOVIET AMBASSADOR GORYUNOV'S COMMENTS ON SPANISH SAHARA. GORYUNOV RESPONDED WITH HOPE THAT "EVERYBODY" WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE ISSUE IN PEACEFUL FASHION. QUERIED MORE SPECIFICALLY ON SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD MOROCCAN CAMPAIGN IN COORDINATION WITH MAURITANIA TO RECUPERATE THE TERRITORY, GORYUNOV NOTED SOVIET JUDGE AT ICJ HAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF MOROCCAN REQUEST FOR AD HOC JUDGE.

2. SOVIET AMBASSADOR ELABORATED THAT SOVIET ATTITUDE ON FUTURE OF SAHARA WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE INFLUENCED BY GENERAL  
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ARAB VIEW. IF ARABS FAVORED MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA,

SOVIETS COULD BE EXPECTED TO GO ALONG. AS TO SPAIN, GORYUNOV REMARKED THAT MOSCOW HAD ALREADY DEVELOPED GOOD RAPPORT WITH MADRID, ALTHOUGH STILL SHORT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SPAIN, IN HIS VIEW, SEEMED TO BE COMING AROUND TO RECOGNITION THAT SAHARAN COLONIALISM NO LONGER POSSIBLE. MOROCCO HAD OFFERED SPAIN ATTRACTIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR DEAL, INCLUDING BASES, GORYUNOV ADDED, WONDERING RHETORICALLY WHY SPAIN HAD NOT ALREADY GOTTEN MATTER OVER WITH. ON POSSIBLE UN ROLE WITH RESPECT TO SAHARA, GORYUNOV TOOK LINE THAT SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON MAJOR ISSUES OF WORLD PEACE, IMPLYING THAT SAHARA COULD NOT COMPARE IN IMPORTANCE WITH EAST-WEST DETENTE.

3. COMMENT. MAURITANIANS, WE NOTE, ARE SAYING THAT SOVIETS SUPPORTING THEIR POSITION (ASUNCION 3150, NOTAL; SOVIETS INDEED VOTED FOR MOROCCAN REQUEST (AS WELL AS FOR UNSUCCESSFUL MAURITANIAN REQUEST) FOR AD HOC JUDGE AT ICJ. NEVERTHELESS, OUR IMPRESSION REMAINS THAT SOVIETS ARE TRYING--WITHIN TRADITIONAL ANTI-COLONIAL POLICY--TO MAINTAIN RELATIVELY NEUTRAL POSITION ON SAHARA ISSUE. MOROCCAN COMMUNIST LEADER HAS STRESSED TO US THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT SUPPORTING ALGERIAN POSITION FAVORING SELF-DETERMINATION. ALGERIAN-SPONSORED F-POLISARIO LIBERATION MOVEMENT, LEADER SAYS, IS VIEWED UNFAVORABLY AS SMALL BAND OF EXTREME LEFTISTS. SOVIETS ALSO APPEAR TO WISH TO AVOID OVERLY ANTAGONIZING MADRID. SOVIET EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US RECENTLY IN THIS CONNECTION THAT MOSCOW WOULD LIKE TO RENEW DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MADRID, BUT CONTINUES TO MEET OPPOSITON FROM SPANISH COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. AS FOR MOROCCO, SOVIETS ARE MAKING MAJOR EFFORT HERE IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC SECTORS, AND HAVE PROVIDED SOME MILITARY EQUIPMENT. THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE CAREFUL NOT TO DISRUPT PROGRESS IN THESE AREAS THROUGH TAKING POLITICAL POSITIONS WHICH MIGHT UPSET GOM.

4. GORYUNOV, FOR HIS PART, APPEARS TO BE SHREWD OBSERVER OF LOCAL SCENE, ALTHOUGH AS SHELEPIN FOLLOWER HE IS PRESUMABLY OUT TO PASTURE IN DIPLOMACY AFTER HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TASS. CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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